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PRIORITY

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

DESP. NO. 817

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE: March 26, 1954

REF:

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/22/76
PER Platt OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 640259

714.00(W)/3-2654
18 714.00(W)/3-2654
00005-08

Assigned to Violette

MAR 27 1954

Central Files

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	CAI-10	DC/R-2 ARA-2 Action Taken USIA-8 ZUNA-2 IAD
	REC'D 3/29	INFO OTHER ARMY-35 NAVY-32-AIR-24 CIA-13-FSD-2 OCB-1

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 12 for State, Army, & Air Departments from U.S.

SUMMARY Action Office Symbol Violette file

Officer

During the past week, Guatemalan comment on the anti-Communist resolution at Caracas fell off sharply. The independent newspapers ran no further editorials although some Guatemalans opposed to the Arbenz Government continued to speculate about what the U.S. would do now that the Resolution had passed. The Administration papers also stopped editorial comment, but they published a large number of "solidarity" messages from leftist Latin American organizations in an evident effort to spread the impression that democratic opinion in the hemisphere was on Guatemala's side.

Meanwhile, an Embassy survey showed that the Soviets have far out-stripped the U.S. in the past two years in influencing Guatemalan leaders by bringing them to the Soviet orbit for Congresses, guided tours, and other indoctrination. The Secretaries General and other leaders of the Communist party, the national labor and peasant federations, the most prominent youths' and women's organizations, and the National Peace Committee have visited Moscow during that time. In contrast, only a dozen Guatemalans, teachers and students, have been aided in going to the U.S. during that time.

On the domestic scene, the week brought further signs of the disintegration of the "non-Communist" Administration parties. The RN "unity" Congress broke up after a shooting in the convention hall killed one and wounded two, and the PAR was still engaged in bitter factional fighting on the eve of its "unity" convention scheduled for this weekend.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Interest in Caracas Conference Wanes: Public comment on the Caracas Conference tapered off sharply this week as the adoption of the U.S.-sponsored anti-Communist resolution faded into the background. Independent newspapers took no strong stand on other agenda items except, early in the week, on the colonialism issue on which

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REPORTER

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sentiment was firmly against the U.S. refusal to go along with what was regarded as a condemnation of colonialism. There were no further editorials on the anti-Communist resolution.

Privately, Guatemalans opposed to the Government continued to try to draw out from Embassy officers what, if anything, the U.S. would do next. Their own suggestions ran the usual range from landing the Marines, to supporting a subversive movement, to economic boycott. There was no suggestion that the Guatemalans could solve the problem without U.S. help.

Soviets Out-strip U.S. In Indoctrination of Guatemalan Leaders: A survey of the current leadership of the principal Guatemalan political parties, the national labor and peasant federations, and the "mass" organizations reveals that all of them are infiltrated by persons who have in the past few years made trips to the Soviet orbit where they received indoctrination in the form of attendance at Communist-inspired meetings , guided tours of the Communist countries, and, probably in some cases consultations with international Communist officials.

The survey shows that in the past two years the following were included in visitors to Moscow:

(1) The Secretary General of the Communist Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT), at least four other members of the Political Committee, and subordinate officers.

(2) The Secretary General of Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG), the national labor federation; the three next most prominent officers; and other members of the Executive Committee.

(3) The Secretary General of the Confederación Nacional Campesina de Guatemala (CNCG), the national peasant organization.

(4) The Secretary General of the Alianza de la Juventud Democrática de Guatemala (AJDG), the most prominent youth organization; and perhaps a dozen other AJDG leaders.

(5) The Secretary General of the Alianza Femenina Guatemalteca (AFG), the leading women's organization; and at least one other member of the Executive Committee.

(6) The Secretary General of the National Peace Committee; and at least five other Committee members.

In addition, a score of persons have attended congresses and meetings in the Soviet orbit without entering, so far as is known, the USSR. These include at least one member of executive committees of each of the Administration's titularly "non-Communist" revolu-

tionary parties and Major Marco Antonio FRANCO, the present President of Congress who attended the 1953 Budapest World Peace Council meeting.

The survey showed that the Soviets' expensive program of bringing these leaders to the USSR far out-stripped the effort of the United States Government whose "leader program" and scholarships have similarities in form to the Soviet effort. In the corresponding period this year the U.S. programs helped a total of four Guatemalan English teachers, seven students, and one "leader" (journalist) to the U.S.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Police Watchful for Possible Supporters of Castillo Armas: A Guatemala City court this week released Sra. Concepción ("Concha") ESTEVEZ, the anti-Communist market women's leader, after she had spent 14 days in jail on a charge of sedition for ordering the printing of a manifesto by Colonel Carlos CASTILLO Armas, the Guatemalan anti-Communist exile leader in Honduras. She told reporters that she had been questioned about alleged Castillo Armas contacts but didn't know anything about them. Police also arrested a certain José Humberto (also given as Carlos Enrique) LORENZANA as he was about to board a commercial plane for Honduras; newspapers speculated that he might be suspected as a Castillo Armas courier. Finally, police picked up Viriato SISNIEGA Otero, father of Leonel SISNIEGA, the Guatemalan anti-Communist student leader also in exile in Honduras. He was released after questioning about receipt of alleged "subversive" correspondence and propaganda.

Further Disintegration of Administration Parties: The disintegration of the "non-Communist" administration parties was further highlighted this week by a fatal shooting which marred the "unity" Congress of the Rengresión Nacional (RN) on March 20 and continued bitter strife in the divided Partido Acción Revolucionario (PAR), which is scheduled to have its "unity" Congress this weekend.

The RN Congress was called to effect a reconciliation between the wings led by respectively Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto, Secretary General of the Presidency, and Deputy Héctor FIGN Garma, both of whom claim to be the legitimate party Secretary General. However, before the credentials were approved, pistol shots killed a policeman and wounded two of Díaz Rozzotto's delegates. Eyewitnesses were quoted in the press to have identified Deputy Alejandro MOVOLCHIO, a henchman of Fíon Garma, as the culprit, but no action has yet been taken against him. Afterwards, Díaz Rozzotto withdrew his claims in the interest of unity, but his henchman, Virgilio ZAPATA Mendia, immediately had himself named as the Díaz Rozzotto faction's candidato for the Secretary Generalship. The party thus remained divided.

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The PAR, meanwhile, prudently ordered the thousand delegates scheduled to attend its March 26-28 "unity" Congress not to carry pistols. A factional fight continued to rage between the dominant wing led by Humberto GONZALEZ Juárez, Private Secretary to the President, and a heterogeneous dissident PAR group led by Deputies Alvaro Hugo SALGUERO, Francisco FERNANDEZ Foncea and others. The hopes that the party might be united under Major Alfonso MARTINEZ, Chief of the National Agrarian Department, were dampened during the week by the publication of an open letter by Martinez declining to be considered for the Secretary Generalship and blaming the party split on premature political maneuvering to select a successor for President Arbenz whose term will not expire until 1957.

The anarchic state prevailing in political circles was further illustrated on March 24 when the four Opposition Deputies had to take refuge in a washroom in Congress to escape from a mob of several hundred government construction and road workers who had not been paid. An Administration Deputy speaking from the floor to the mob in the galleries led it to believe that the Opposition's absence had prevented Congress from achieving a quorum to give the workers relief.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy

cc: C.A. Missions & Routine

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